

WASHINGTON, DC—U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) today announced that the House Appropriations Committee has approved \$29,590,000 for Lane Transit District (LTD) Pioneer Parkway EmX Corridor and \$250,000 for LTD's alternatives analysis for a third EmX Corridor. DeFazio requested funding for both projects. The funding was included in the fiscal year 2008 Transportation, Treasury and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill.

\$29,590,000 for Lane Transit District, Pioneer Parkway EmX Corridor

EmX is the name given to LTD's bus rapid transit system. It is a rubber-tired system that uses exclusive transit lanes, signal priority, off-board fare collection, special vehicles, and other transit priority techniques to emulate light rail.

The Pioneer Parkway EmX service will connect downtown Springfield with the rapidly developing Gateway/RiverBend area to the north.

Pioneer Parkway will be the second EmX corridor in LTD's system.

Planning for the corridor has proceeded through initial conceptual design development, and preliminary environmental screening and alternatives analysis.

\$250,000 for LTD's alternatives analysis for the Third EmX Corridor

EmX is the name given to LTD's bus rapid transit system. The first EmX line, the Franklin EmX, is in service. Pioneer Parkway EmX, a Springfield extension of the Franklin EmX, is expected to be in service in 2010.

The third EmX corridor, which is expected to serve West Eugene, could be in service in 2015. EmX planning in this corridor will be part of a broader study of possible transportation improvements for West Eugene.

The Transportation Appropriations bill is expected to be considered by the full House of Representatives next week.